

For Sale.

MacEWEN, FRICKEL & Co.
VICTORIA EXCHANGE,
QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

H AVE FOR SALE
THE FOLLOWING
STORES.

York HAMS.
Roll BUTTER.
Topocan BUTTER.
French BUTTER.
Err's COCOA.

VAN HOUTEN'S COCOA.
Picnie TONGUES.
MACKEREL in 5th Tins.
RAISINS and CURRANTS.
Crystallized FRUITS.

SAVORY & MOORE'S New Infant FOOD.
BARNES & Co.'s JAMS.
Potted MEATS.
PATE DE FOIS GRAS.
Swiss MILK.

BORDEN'S
CONDENSED MILK.
COOKING STOVES.

KEROSENE LAMPS.
WINES, &c.

GILMER'S Sparkling SAUMUR, Pils. & Qts.
SACONNE'S MANZANILLA.
SACONNE'S Old Invalid PORT.
Old Bourbon WHISKY.
BURNER'S Old Irish WHISKY.
Royal Glendee WHISKY.
MARSALE.

&c., &c., &c.

THE USUAL ASSORTMENT
of
OILMAN'S STORES,
at the
Lowest Possible Prices
FOR CASH.

MacEWEN, FRICKEL & Co.
Hongkong, February 10, 1886. 280

FOR SALE

**THE GOOD-WILL and Valuable
STOCK-IN-TRADE, FURNITURE,
&c., &c.,** belonging to the Business of
the late WILLIAM DOLAN, Sail-maker, Ship-
channel.

The Underigned, the Executor of
the Estate of the said WILLIAM DOLAN, deceased,
will receive offers for this Valuable Pro-
perty until Noon on the Fifth day of April,
1886.

Tenues—Cash on completion of the Sale,
which shall be completed within one week
after the acceptance by the Underigned of offer.

W. H. RAY,
Executor of W. DOLAN'S Estate.
Hongkong, March 25, 1886. 610

Intimations.

**GRIFFITH'S
NEW VIEWS OF HONGKONG
AT
NOW READY,
1, DUDDELL STREET.**

**GRIFFITH & Co.,
MANUFACTURERS
OF THE**

**LONDON ILLUSTRATED WATER, &c.,
1, DUDDELL STREET.**

Continue to Supply:
BODA WATER, LAMPGLASS,
TINTED GLASS, CRISTAL
SILVER, &c., &c., &c.

At the same Moderate Charges.
Hongkong, June 9, 1885. 057

**JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.'s
PIERS AND GODOWNS,
WEST POINT.**

**THERE are now in Working Order—
STEAMERS are ready at the Wharf,
and CARGO RECEIVED and STORED at Cheap
Rates.**

The GODOWNS are two storied, dry,
airy, and well suited for the STORAGE of
SILK, COTTON and WOOLLEN FINE GOODS,
as well as GENERAL MERCHANDISE.

For Rates and further Particulars, apply
to the MANAGERS, or to
JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.
Hongkong, December 2, 1885. 2092

DENTISTRY.

**FIRST CLASS WORKMANSHIP.
MODERATE FEES.**

**MR. WONG TAI-FONG,
Surgeon Dentist.**

(FORMERLY ATTENDED APPOINTMENT AND LAT-
TERLY ASSISTANT TO DR. ROGERS.)
At the urgent request of his European
and American patients and friends,
has TAKEN THE OFFICE formerly oc-
cupied by Dr. ROGERS.

No. 2, DUDDELL STREET.

CONSULTATION FREE.
Discount to missionaries and families.
Sole Address
No. 2, DUDDELL STREET.
(Next to the New Oriental Bank.)
Hongkong, January 12, 1886. 69

Entertainments.

**THEATRE ROYAL,
CITY HALL.**

**THE HONGKONG AMATEUR
DRAMATIC CLUB**

Have the honor to announce that
THE THIRD PERFORMANCE
OF THE SEASON,

will take place on
WEDNESDAY,
the 7th April, 1886, at 8 p.m.,

When will be produced
A COMEDY BY J. PALMAYE SIMPSON,
entitled

'HEADS OR TAILS,'
AND
THE SUCCESSFUL FARGE
'CHEISELLING.'

The proceeds of this Performance will be
devoted to PUBLIC CHARITY.

Tickets (\$2 each) may be obtained from
Messrs. LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.'s, on and
after Friday, 2nd April, at 9 a.m.

H. M. THOMSETT,
Hon. Secretary.
Hongkong, March 26, 1886. 637

To-day's Advertisements.

**CHIARINI'S GRAND
CIRCUS**

AND
MENAGERIE

OF
TRAINED ANIMALS.

Will Exhibit at Hongkong,
commencing on or about
SATURDAY, April 3, 1886.

For Particulars see future Advertisements.
FRANK G. WILSON,
Advance Agent.

Hongkong, April 1, 1886. 663

To-day's Advertisements.

**RICHMOND TERRACE,
TO BE LET.**

A HOUSE, each in Summer, with Four
Gown Rooms—Dressing Room, Three
Bath Rooms, and convenient Out Offices,
in thorough order.

Apply to
J. D. HUMPHREYS,
22, Queen's Road Central.
Hongkong, April 1, 1886. 664

To-day's Advertisements.

TO BE LET—FURNISHED.

A Very Comfortable HOUSE, with Six
Rooms—Dressing Room, Library,
Three Bath Rooms, convenient Out Offices,
Tennis Courts, and Garden.

For Nine months from May next.
Apply to
J. D. HUMPHREYS,
22, Queen's Road Central.
Hongkong, April 1, 1886. 665

To-day's Advertisements.

**THEATRE ROYAL,
CITY HALL.**

Manager, NIEL O'BRIEN.
Patron:
HIS EXCELLENCY THE OFFICER ADMINISTER-
ING THE GOVERNMENT,
THE HON. W. H. MARSH, O.M.G.

ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION
OF THE
MASCOTTE OPERA COMPANY.

ON
SATURDAY,
the 3rd April, 1886.

COMPLIMENTARY BENEFIT
TO
MR. VERNON REID.

FIRST PRODUCTION OF SIR JULIUS BEN-
DIOT'S BEAUTIFUL ROMANTIC OPERA.
IN THREE ACTS.

'The Lily of Killarney,'
OR
'The Colleen Bawn.'

Hardress O'Grady, Mr. Vernon Reid.
Myke Na Copple, Mr. W. W. Walsh.
Denny Mann, Mr. Edward Farley.
Squire Corrigan, Mr. Chas. A. Tyrrell.
Fisher Tom, Mr. Neil O'Brien.
Bertie O'More, Mr. Erskine Scott.
Ann Gault, Miss Florence Seymour.
Mrs. O'Grady, Mr. Carrie Hubert.
Sheela, Mr. Stella.

AND
Eily O'Connor (The
Colleen Bawn), Miss Eva Davenport.

Contractor, Signor M. A. VALENZA.

By kind permission of Colonel FORSTER and
Officers, the Band of the 68th Regt.
will play Appropriate Selections during
the evening.

Doors open at 8.30. Overture at 9 precisely.

Box Plan at KRELL & WALSH'S (LIMITED).
Hongkong, April 1, 1886. 662

FOR SHANGHAI

The Steamship
Amoy,
Capt. R. KOLMAN, will be
despatched for the above
PORT TO-MORROW, the 2nd instant, at
Noon.

For Freight or Passage, apply to
SIEMSEN & Co.
Hongkong, April 1, 1886. 660

SHIRE LINE OF STEAMERS.

FOR YOKOHAMA AND HIOGO.

The Steamship
Pembroke,
WILKINS, Commander,
will be despatched for the
above Ports on SATURDAY, the 3rd April,
at Noon.

For Freight or Passage, apply to
ADAMSON, BELL & Co.,
Agents.

Hongkong, April 1, 1886. 667

STEAM TO BOMBAY VIA STRAITS.

The P. & O. S. N. Co.'s
Steamship
Kilda
will leave for the above
places on THURSDAY, the 8th instant, at
3 p.m.

A. MOYER,
Superintendent.
P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Office,
Hongkong, April 1, 1886. 661

Vessels Advertised as Loading.

Destination.	Vessel.	Captain.	Agents.	Date of Leaving.
Bombay, via Straits.	Khiva (s).	R. E. Platt.	P. & O. S. N. Co.	April 2, at 3 p.m.
Haifa, &c., via Suez Canal.	Atlanta (s).	R. E. Platt.	Siemens & Co.	April 2, at daylight.
Holbow, Singapore and Bangkok Kong Beng (s).	John Charles.	R. E. Platt.	Yuen Fat Hong.	April 2, at daylight.
London, via Suez Canal.	Meneais (s).	Nelson.	Adamson, Bell & Co.	About April 12.
London, &c., via Suez Canal.	Flinders (s).	G. Scrivener.	P. & O. S. N. Co.	April 12, at 4 p.m.
London and Ports of Call.	Hydrades (s).	Talbot.	Russell & Co.	April 2, at 8 p.m.
Manila, via Amoy.	Zafiro (s).	Vincent.	Messageries Maritimes.	April 2, at noon.
Manille, &c., via Saigon.	Ava (s).	Blocher.	Soy Sing.	April 2, at 8 p.m.
Saigon.	Triton (s).	Russell & Co.	P. & O. S. N. Co.	April 2, at 8 p.m.
San Francisco, via Yokohama.	City of Peking (s).	W. Macdonell.	Russell & Co.	April 2, at 8 p.m.
San Francisco.	Sussex.	J. B. Blethen.	Russell & Co.	Quick despatch.
Shanghai, Yokohama and Hio-go.	Amoy (s).	R. Kohler.	Siemens & Co.	April 2, at noon.
Shanghai, via Amoy.	Nestor (s).	Bailly.	Adamson, Bell & Co.	April 2, at noon.
Swatow, Amoy and Foochow.	Thales (s).	Thompson.	Butterfield & Swire.	April 2, at noon.
Sydney and Melbourne, &c.	Airlie (s).	Pocock.	Douglas Lapsack & Co.	April 2, at 9 a.m.
Tientsin, &c.	Possidon (s).	Ellis.	Russell & Co.	April 2, at 4 p.m.
Yokohama and Hio-go.	Pembroke (s).	G. Donck.	Adamson, Bell & Co.	April 2, at noon.

SHARE LIST.—QUOTATIONS.

Stocks.	No. of Shares.	Value.	Paid-up.	Position PER LAST REPORT.	Reserve.	Balance forward.	Last Dividend.	Closing Quotations.
BANKS.								
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank Corp.	60,000	125	125	\$4,500,000	For equalization of \$500,000	\$63,800.38	23 div., & 10/100	187 1/2 prem., cash
INSURANCES.								
North-China Insurance Co., Ltd.	5,000	200	50	...	...	112,639.35	12 1/2 p. sh.	112 3/4
Yangtze Insurance Company, Ltd.	8,000	212	25	50,000	...	3,039.76	Dec. 31, 1884	112 1/2
Union Assurance Society Co., Ltd.	2,000	83.33	25	575,000	...	439,089.41	1881 p. sh. 1/4	84 1/2
China Traders Insurance Co., Ltd.	24,000	100	25	600,000	...	200,773.71	18 1/2 % annuities	87 1/2
Canton Insurance Office Co., Ltd.	10,000	250	50	155,000	...	465,214.43	10 %	87 1/2
Chinese Insurance Co., Limited.	1,500	1,000	200	28,711.50	...	2,888.89	6 for 1885	81 1/2 per share
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.	8,000	250	50	1,000,000	...	283,482.55	\$27.10 for 1884	82 1/2 cash, ex div.
China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.	20,000	100	20	668,700	...	228,811.67	6 for 1884	82 1/2 cash, ex div.
STEAMSHIP COMPANIES.								
H.K. & M. Steamship Co., Ltd.	8,000	100	75	300,000	...	34,522.05	3 1/2 half year	80 prem., cash
Douglas Steamship Co., Limited.	20,000	50	50	86,764.16	...	402.22	Dec. 31, 1885	12 1/2 p. sh.
Indo-China S. N. Company, Limited.	18,387	102	10	...	...	117,167.7	3 % for 1884	5 % prem.
60,000 shares issued.	21,212	102	10	...	...	...	...	...
China and Manila S. S. Co., Ltd.	5,000	100	100	...	...	...	...	25 discount
MISCELLANEOUS.								
H.K. & W. Steamship Co., Ltd.	10,000	125	125	18,000	...	6,551.87	3 1/2 half year	182 1/2 prem., cash, buyers
H.K. and China Gas Co., Limited.	5,000	102	10	...	...	9,177.31	10 % and 2 %	119 1/2 per share
New Shares.	1,000	102	7.10	...	...	1,527.37	...	...
Hongkong Hotel Company, Ltd.	2,000	100	100	...	...	1,175.07	Old, 86	81 1/2 per share, buyers, ex div.
3,000 shares issued.	1,000	100	60	...	...	13,451.51	None, 83	81 1/2 per share, cash, buyers
China Sugar Company, Limited.	9,000	100	100	...	...	1,125.30	12	81 1/2 per share
Hongkong Ice Company, Limited.	1,200	100	100	...	...	690.66	12	81 1/2 ex div.
Hongkong Bakeries Co., Ltd.	600	100	100	...	...	1,094.52	3	81 1/2 cash, ex div.
Luen Seng Co., Ltd.	7,000	100	100	...	...	...	...	...
Perak Tin Mining Co., Ltd.	5,000	50	50	...	...	...	...	...
Selangore & Singapore Dist.	2,500	100	100	...	...	...	...	...
Panioning Co., Ltd.	40,000	100	5	...	...	...	...	...
Ming Wah Manufacturing Co., Ltd.	3,000	50	50	...	...	...	...	...
H.K. & W. Manufacturing Co., Ltd.	4,000	50	50	...	...	...	...	...
LOANS.								
Chinese Imperial 1881	8,565	500	all	8 %	...	...	...	...
" 1884 A.	2700	500	all	8 %	...	...	...	...
" 1884 B.	2700	500	all	8 %	...	...	...	...
" 1884 C.	2150	500	all	8 %	...	...	...	...
Sugar Debentures, 1880	600	500	all	8 %	...	...	...	...

A. G. STOKES, Share Broker.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

March 31, 1886.

Ascalon, British str., 1,523, H. Maris, Saigon March 27, Rico and General.

Stamess & Co.

April 1.

Menelaus, British steamer, 1,300, B. Nelson, Shanghai via Amoy, and Swatow March 31, General.—BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE.

Ganger Rolf, Norwegian steamer, 1,184, C. H. Muller, Saigon March 26, Rico and Faddy.—EDWARD SCHREIBER & Co.

Pookang, British steamer, 900, H. V. Hogg, Shanghai March 28, and Swatow 31, General.—JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.

Khiva, British steamer, 1,600, S. Bason, Bombay March 12, and Singapore, General.—P. & O. S. N. Co.

Pembroke, British steamer, 1,717, B. P. Wilkins, London via Singapore March 26, General.—ADAMSON, BELL & Co.

DEPARTURES.

April 1.

Gratitude, for Kutchinotzu. Rosamond, for Holbow. Fiddio, for Bangkok.

Antes, for Holbow. Tagapang, for Hapshong. Richard Parsons, for Holo. Estrella, for Hapshong. Formosa, for Coast Ports. Angerton, for Saigon.

CLEARED.

McNear, for Cebu. Kong Beng, for Holbow, Spore & Bangkok. Menelaus, for Singapore and London. Gulf of Suez, for Saigon. Amoy, for Shanghai. Pookang, for Newchwang. Escort, for Mantang.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Ascalon, from Saigon, Capt. J. A. Clarke, Mr. Robertson, and 24 Chinese.

Per Menelaus, from Shanghai, &c., Mr. and Mrs. Kerec, Messrs. Mannors and Corrie, and 8-9 Chinese.

Per Ganger Rolf, from Saigon, 3 Chinese.

Per Pookang, from Shanghai via Swatow, Mr. and Mrs. T. H. May and family, for Canton; and 100 Chinese for Hongkong.

Per Khiva, from Saigon, 190 Chinese.

Per Pembroke, from Singapore, &c., 250 Chinese.

DEPARTED.

Per Rosamond, for Holbow, 30 Chinese.

Per Fiddio, for Bangkok, 10 Chinese.

Per Antes, for Holbow, 30 Chinese.

Per Formosa, for Coast Ports, 200 Chinese.

Per Angerton, for Saigon, 12 Chinese.

TO DEPART.

Per Kong Beng, for Holbow, 20 Chinese.

Per Menelaus, for Singapore, 860 Chinese.

Per Gulf of Suez, for Saigon, 12 Chinese.

Per Amoy, for Shanghai, 15 Chinese.

Per Frey, for Hapshong, 10 Chinese.

SHIPPING REPORTS.

The British steamer Menelaus reports: Had had down to Nipinas; and thence to Saigon.

The British steamer Ganger Rolf reports: From Shanghai to Swatow, fine weather and light to moderate N. Easterly to N. breeze and smooth sea. Same weather between Swatow and Hongkong, with haze and fog near Hongkong.

The British steamer Pembroke reports: Experienced strong monsoon until reaching Cape Varilla; after which light S.E. winds and fine weather.

CARGOES.

Per S. S. Denon, sailed 24th March: To London: from Hongkong, 14 pkgs. Sundries; from Japan, 18 cases Oatmeal; from Manila, 1,413 bales Hemp, and 1,318 bags Coffee.

Per S. S. Clyde, sailed 30th March: From Hongkong, Canton and Macao: To London, 10 bales Fine and Raw Silk, 14 cases Silk Piece Goods, 922 boxes Tea, containing 19,361 lbs. Congou, 64 bales Waste Silk, 1,946 coils Rope and 137 pkgs. Sundries. To Continent: 108 bales Fine and Raw Silk and 8 cases Silk Piece Goods. To New York, 60 bales Raw Silk. From Manila: for Continent, 2,400 bags Coffee and 90 baskets Buffalo Horns.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF VICTORIA GAOL FOR 1885.

The following report on the Gaol by General Gordon was laid on the table of the Legislative Council yesterday afternoon—

Gaol Superintendent's Office, Hongkong, 27th Jan., 1886.

Colonial Secretary.—In forwarding the prescribed Annual Statistical Return of Victoria Gaol, I beg to submit at the same time, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, the following observations on the Gaol and its administration, which are but little adverted to in the Official Return.

1.—I assumed charge of the Victoria Gaol in the beginning of May last. My personal experience thereto only extends to eight months of the past year, and, I venture to offer opinions and make suggestions as to desirable changes and reforms, I do so with diffidence, conscious of my limited experience of the criminal classes and prison administration in the Far East.

2.—In directing the administration of the Gaol in this Colony, it will hardly be disputed that Government cannot do better than to be guided in its general principles by English Prison experience, and to endeavour to attain the results arrived at in England. These results have of late years been marvellously and briefly but graphically described in Sir E. du Cane's account of Penal Servitude (London, 1882.)

A combination of deterrent and reformatory Prison discipline, matured by the experience of many years, has, in England, resulted in a diminution of criminality, astonishing. During the five years ending in 1880, the yearly average of sentenced Prisoners, in England and Wales, was

Sentenced to penal servitude.....2,388
Sentenced to imprisonment.....12,536

Total.....14,924
out of a population of over 19 millions. This number was year by year reduced till in 1881 it amounted to

Sentenced to penal servitude.....1,555
Sentenced to imprisonment.....9,206

Total.....10,761
while the population had increased from 10 millions to nearly 20 millions.

3.—Such splendid results can hardly be hoped for in this Colony; but Government can at least strive to approximate them. There are many causes operating in Hongkong which make the attainment of such reformatory results of Prison discipline less efficacious than they are at home. Some are inherent in the situation and conditions of the Colony; but some are removable.

The wealth and prosperity of Hongkong induces a large influx of Chinese and other foreign population amongst whom are a large proportion of the criminal classes. These latter, probably accustomed to the severity of the Canton and other Eastern prisons, must be agreeably surprised, and can hardly be deterred by the humane and gentle treatment, which, as a civilized and Christian nation, we extend to our prisoners.

4.—In the Gaol, as far as my observation goes, Chinese convicts are better fed, better clothed, and better lodged than free coolie labourers, and the labour exacted from them is less. The deterrent effects of imprisonment which more than make up for the loss of liberty and its accompanying privations—a loss far more acutely felt by Western races than those we have to deal with here. Reformatory elements are greatly wanting here. Scholastic and religious instruction there is none for the Chinese prisoners, and the services of the Christian service in the Chinese language on Sundays. Instruction in trades can, owing to limited accommodation, be extended to only a limited number, and the compulsory living in association is only likely to result in the moral corruption of many of the prisoners.

5.—The Gaol staff, besides the Warden and Head Turnkeys, consist of 1st and 2nd class Turnkeys (all Europeans) and 1st and 2nd class Assistant Turnkeys (Europeans, coloured men, and natives). None of these have had previous training in prison discipline. They have all been trained in this Gaol. The European Officers are zealous, painstaking, and conscientious. The maintenance of prison discipline has altogether depended upon them, and, although it would be better to have a proportion of officers trained to the careful discipline of an English prison, the services of the European staff deserve in my opinion the acknowledgment of Government.

6.—I regret I cannot, with one or two notable exceptions, say the same for the coloured and native staff. At one time friendly and familiar with prisoners, at other times harsh and exacting, almost always waiting in judgment and discretion, they are in my opinion responsible for much prison crime. Many of them also have proved to be dishonest in so far as they have trafficked with prisoners in tobacco, opium, etc., and have been open to bribery in conveying communications between prisoners and outside friends. In fact at the time I took over the Gaol, any prisoner whose friends would provide the money, could procure tobacco, opium, letters or anything he wanted, through the instrumentality of coloured turnkeys. Of these turnkeys during the year 6 were invalided, 3 resigned, and 10 were dismissed; most of the latter for illicit dealings with prisoners, one of them having been tried and convicted in the Magistrate's Court. The vacancies so caused were mostly replaced by soldiers, His Excellency the Major General commanding the Troops having kindly permitted soldiers from the Garrison to join the prison staff on probation. These men, if found suitable, purchased their discharge and permanently joined the prison staff. They proved most valuable. Their habits of discipline raised the tone of the subordinate staff. Instead of quarrelling and arguing with prisoners, like so many of the coloured staff, they gave their orders quietly and reported breaches of discipline without noise or altercation, and gradually improved the subordination and discipline of the convicts. The soldier turnkeys moreover are absolutely free from the slightest suspicion of tampering with prisoners. Their presence in Gaol I consider a great gain to Government.

7.—The Official Return shows that this Gaol contains 150 cells or wards, of which 49 only are separate cells, but 3 have been used during the year. The prison is greatly overcrowded. During the year the Government sanctioned the removal of the female prisoners to a house outside Victoria Gaol. This was carried into effect in October last, and placed at my disposal the late female ward with 8 large cells and a separate yard, which, relieved to some extent the overcrowding. Yet this is but a very small relief. Long experience at home has proved that, to make prison punishment deterrent and reformatory, it is essential that prisoners should be kept in separate confinement. The established principle is that prisoners on conviction should be at once placed in separate confinement both day and night. This principle is not followed in England for nine months. In the second stage convicts are employed at labour in association, but

sleep and have their meals in a separate cell. It is quite impossible to carry out such a system in Victoria Gaol, with the very limited and unsuitable accommodation of the buildings, and I believe it has never been so approximately attempted, notwithstanding the separate cells having been times been chiefly used for punishment. I have, however, endeavoured, as far as the limited accommodation allowed, to follow the established principles, which I have carried out in the following manner. Prisoners sentenced to less than six months, I have, except in rare and special cases, entirely exempted from separate confinement, placing them at once in associated wards. Every prisoner sentenced to six months or more I cause to undergo a limited period of separate confinement. Such prisoners come in almost daily. Whenever the separate cells therefore are full, I examine the records of those occupying them, and transfer the best conducted amongst them to associated wards to make room for new comers. This has to be done about once a week. Since I have had the female ward at my disposal I have used it as a sort of intermediate place of semi-separate confinement; four or five long sentence prisoners being confined in each cell there, and kept at work in separation from all other prisoners, having their own separate quarters for exercise. Long sentence prisoners, on removal from separate cells, are now transferred to the late female ward, but there in their turn must in a short time be removed to the ordinary associated wards to make room for others. By this system I am able to give every prisoner, except those sentenced to less than six months, three weeks' separate confinement at the beginning of his sentence. A very poor result, but it is all that can be done, unless separate confinement were entirely reserved for convicts sentenced to penal servitude.

8.—The limited space of the Gaol tells equally hardly on industrial labour. Mat-making, chair and basket making, carpentering, and even most of the oakum picking have to be carried out in narrow and limited verandahs. There is only space for a single loom of coarse mat-making, and a single loom of fine mat-making; all other work is carried out in an ordinary cell. In fact there is no suitable workshop in the Gaol, nor space for one, except for the single industry of washing clothes. Were the prison provided with suitable workshops, it would be easy to change every long sentence prisoner into a trained and skilled workman at a remunerative trade; and there would be every hope that a large percentage of convicts would by these means be reclaimed from a life of crime. As it is, we can hardly employ at and train to trades about one hundred prisoners.

9.—In the Victoria Gaol I am assailed to the demands of modern civilization or even humanity; for it seems hardly humane to fail in adopting those measures which experience has shown to operate as deterrents to criminals and as encouragement to reform. It seems hardly humane to continue a prisoner in a state of which the enforced association of criminals is well known as tending to make the better class bad and the bad worse.

10.—After a short experience of eight months in charge of this Gaol, I venture to hazard an opinion that the Chinese convicts are more amenable to discipline, and disposed to do as well conducted, as those of any race I am acquainted with. This view, I must admit, is in appearance not supported by the statistics given in the Annual Return. It will be observed that in the year 1884, with a daily average number of 602 prisoners, 4,784 offences were reported. In 1885, with an average of 530 prisoners, 6,473 offences were reported, giving an average of 12 prison offences a year for each prisoner; nor was the great bulk of these offences committed by a small number of prisoners, as in the case in England, where only about half the number of prisoners are annually punished for prison offences. On the last day of the year it was found that there were only 76 prisoners in Gaol who had been free of punishment for three months. If we compare this with the statistics of English prisons where in 1882 only 100 prisoners were free of punishment, only 5,861 prisoners were reported, committing 18,003 offences or less than two per annum per prisoner confined, we can hardly fail to draw the conclusion that the convicts of Hongkong are a peculiarly turbulent and inamenable class. But this conclusion would be erroneous.

The large number of prison offences in Victoria Gaol appear to be due to special conditions, the chief of which are—

1. The enforced association and crowding together of the prisoners at night, for want of separate sleeping cells for each prisoner.

2. The enforced crowding together of prisoners by day, when at work and at meals, for want of space in the workshops and yards.

3. The want of training and general inefficiency of a number of the turnkeys, whose ignorance, misconduct and want of judgment have been the cause of much avoidable prison crime.

4. An explanation will naturally be expected of the large increase of prison offences in 1885 as compared with 1884 from 4,784 to 6,473 or over 30 per cent. The number of prison offences reported during the past year have actually decreased all round, with the exception of two kinds, viz., 'talking' and 'lack of oakum short-picking.' The explanation of the increase in these two offences is as follows:—On taking charge of the prison I found the Regulation requiring silence to be maintained was not strictly enforced, only very noisy talkers at first being reported. In fact after the prisoners were looked for for the night, the noise of conversation from the associated wards was perfectly audible in the neighbouring streets. I enforced the Regulation, detailing for some time extra turnkeys on duty to enforce silence. This raised the number of reported 'talking' from 619 in 1884 to 2,138 in 1885, a number which more than accounts for the total increase of reports in the year. I append a tabulated statement showing the monthly offences under this head during the last two years. It is curious to note that silence appears to be more strictly enforced in the summer months. During 1885 there were reported 945 offences for short oakum picking and petty oakum thefts; the prisoners crowded together in the working yard, frequently stealing each other's picked oakum. Offences were recorded under this head in 1884. The practice had been for the officer charged with looking after the yard, these offences and their punishments were not recorded in the offence book. As these papers were not preserved, I am unable to make comparisons with the previous year. The statistics appeared to me to be irregular. I directed all offences to be entered in the offence book, thus increasing the offences by 945. The offences under these two heads account for nearly half the prison offences of the year 1885 and for more than double the increase over previous year.

5. The remaining prison offences consist of assaults and acts of insubordination, idleness and refusing to work, having tobacco or opium, quarrelling and fighting, stealing food, disorderly conduct and other miscellaneous offences. In all these there has, as compared with the previous year,

been a diminution in 1885. The number, however, is very large as compared with English prisons, owing chiefly to the great opportunities and temptations of imprisonment in association.

14.—During the year 11 cases of insubordination towards and assaults on officers of the Gaol, sanctioned by the Superintendent and a Visiting Justice. Of these cases 9 offenders were awarded corporal punishment, and 3 solitary confinement.

15.—The cases of prisoners assaulting and fighting with each other were much more numerous. In 1884, 270 such offences were reported; in 1885, 204 were reported. Finding these offences very numerous, I caused it to be signified to the prisoners that aggravated assaults on each other would be tried. 13 such cases were accordingly brought to trial before the Superintendent and a Visiting Justice. In 9 cases corporal punishment was inflicted; in 3 cases solitary imprisonment; one case broke down for want of evidence. The result was satisfactory in diminishing the number of these offences during the year. I append a table showing the number of these offences during each month for the last four years. It will be observed that the monthly average during the first nine months of 1885 was 21 offences, which was reduced in the last quarter to a monthly average of 11.

16.—The most serious offence during the year was an assault made on the Superintendent on the 27th June, with a dangerous weapon, a brick, which was thrown by a prisoner under sentence of 18 months imprisonment. He was tried and received corporal punishment. A careful and lengthy enquiry into the causes of this assault elicited the fact that it was the result of a quarrel, in which upwards of 50 of the worst convicts in Gaol, nearly all members of the Triad Society, were concerned. A considerable sum of money had been collected or promised to reward the man who committed the assault. The cause was stated to be the general discontent of the prisoners with the prison regulations, enforced by the new Superintendent, and a special grievance being his enforcing the prescribed punishment of 1 lb. of rice a day; the practice having previously been to allow prisoners sentenced to punishment to receive the Penal diet, of 1 lb. of rice a day, punishment but little food; 1 lb. of rice of rice when boiled giving a prisoner somewhat over 3 lbs. of food.

17.—The great risk of possible conspiracy is very obvious in a prison like this, where most of the prisoners live in association, and where silence has been very imperfectly enforced upon at work, under the usual system of the turnkeys. It was necessary to open the Gaol, and to inform everything going on in the Gaol, to a number of trouble and through the valuable assistance of Mr. Machado, the late Gaol clerk, an able and intelligent official, thoroughly conversant with the Chinese language, several informers were found to give information of the various goings on among the prisoners. Slight sentences were granted by Government as a recommendation for such services. The advantage of this arrangement became speedily apparent. A plot was revealed for the escape of a number of convicts, and a party of prisoners, who had been man-handled by the turnkeys, were prevented from doing so. A letter was intercepted (and sent to the Police) asking friends outside to have a junk in readiness for them at a named spot; the key was carefully copied, and the convicts were only waiting for a day, when they were up in a shed for shelter, they could pass the key along and loosen their chains unobserved by the warders. After a careful search the key was found, and the prisoners were removed from the shed, and the information was given to Government a remission of 18 months of their sentence.

18.—The offence of having tobacco or opium in prison has been a very common one. In 1884 there were 719 cases reported, in 1885 there were 619 cases reported. This, in its effects, is a very serious matter. With the moderate work and liberal diet of this Gaol, as compared to that of ordinary coolies, and with the comfort of living in association, it only requires easy opportunities for indulgence in narcotics, to render the Gaol quite a den of iniquity, and a source of crime. The deprivation of narcotics, as a deterrent to this case and should be strictly enforced. There have been many difficulties to contend with in Victoria Gaol on this score. The corruption of coloured Gaol officials, who deal with prisoners in tobacco, has been referred to. Prisoners were not only allowed to have servants to turnkeys residing in the Gaol, and these, coming more or less in contact with the outside public had many opportunities of smuggling in tobacco, etc. The prison walls in parts are low, and when convicts were crowded at work in the yards, tobacco was frequently thrown over the walls from the adjoining streets, and falling among the prisoners was secreted by them before it could be observed by the turnkeys in charge, even if the latter did not willfully turn their eyes away. It was introduced in prison baskets and in dry-cake baskets. In fact, quite a trade in narcotics has been carried on in the Gaol, and the prisoners and their friends outside to have this coveted article secretly introduced into the Gaol. The following steps have been adopted. Every officer proved to have been engaged in traffic with prisoners has been dismissed; several persons found attempting to pass tobacco into the Gaol have been prosecuted. Nets have been put over the walls where tobacco had been thrown over the walls. The employment of prisoners as cooks and servants to turnkeys has been stopped by Government, and constant vigilance inspections and searches are continually made over the Gaol premises. These measures have not yet been successful, but will be seen from the Return of these offences annexed hereto, that in the first six months of the year 584 cases of having tobacco were reported; an average of 88 per month. In the last six months 175 cases were reported; an average of 29 per month; or, if we take the year 1885, 76 cases or an average of 13 cases a month. A progressively satisfactory result, which will appear still more so when it is added that in the earlier part of the year it was seen that the tobacco found in possession of prisoners often consisted of large sticks or plugs, and that in the last 3 months the quantities found were infinitesimal.

19.—Prison discipline, during the year, has therefore been so far satisfactory, that, with the exception of the offences of talking and short oakum picking, there has been a gradual but steady diminution of reported prison offences; and, of the numbers reported, it seems probable that at least three-fourths are owing to the living in association, necessitated by the limited prison accommodation.

20.—In concluding my observations on the Gaol discipline, I desire to call attention to the large number of prisoners who are old offenders. I annex a return showing the number of convictions recorded against prisoners in Gaol on 31st December, 1885. It will be seen that out of a total of 673 prisoners 128 or 33 per cent. have been previously convicted. This is probably to some extent attributable to light sentences passed on habitual criminals. Many of these re-

turn to Gaol, over and over again, a few weeks after discharge. It seems likely that if such criminals were sent to penal servitude for their second offence, such punishment would probably act as a deterrent (which short sentences do not), it would cost the Colony no more, and would have the community from many thefts and much vexation.

21.—That short sentences passed in associated wards are not very deterrent, I have fair evidence. There are generally in Gaol from 20 to 30 prisoners of the criminal class, confined for short periods for want of finding security (generally only a few dollars) for good behaviour. These persons are placed in associated wards, comfortably lodged and fed, and have no work to do. As a rule they declare themselves unable to find the required security, and remain in Gaol the appointed time. But, having no idea that many of these 'Security Prisoners' could find security if they wished, I caused them to be sent to the experiment of sending several of them to separate cells, the result being that very few stood more than 3 or 4 days of separate confinement, but found the security required and left the Gaol. Had these been allowed to remain together in an associated ward, it seems probable they would have preferred a rest of a few months in Gaol at the cost of the Colony.

LABOUR ON PUBLIC WORKS AND INDUSTRIAL LABOUR.

22.—A claim-gang of prisoners has been working during the year for the order of the Surveyor General, on Public Works, and has generally consisted of about 90 men; though this number has lately been much reduced. The work of this gang has not given satisfaction. The officers in charge of the gang receive an extra allowance for this duty. The gang has been supplied with food and clothing, and has been credited and on discharge paid one cent a day as earnings. The cost of these extras is charged to the Surveyor General's Department. The officers in charge of the gang receive an extra allowance for this duty. The gang has been supplied with food and clothing, and has been credited and on discharge paid one cent a day as earnings. The cost of these extras is charged to the Surveyor General's Department. The officers in charge of the gang receive an extra allowance for this duty. 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